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WISBECH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AND

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT
1966



*With the Compliments
of the
Chief Public Health Inspector*

*Public Health Department
Exchange Square
Wisbech*

*Telephone:
Wisbech 5761*

P U B L I C

H E A L T H

C O M M I T T E E

<u>THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR:</u>	Councillor G. Regester
<u>CHAIRMAN:</u>	Alderman E.H. Miller
<u>VICE CHAIRMAN:</u>	Alderman E.M. Rigg
<u>MEMBERS:</u>	Alderman Mrs. B.M. Osborn
	Alderman L.H. Rands
	Alderman C.A.D. Woolnough
	Councillor F. Alberts
	Councillor M.J. Betts
	Councillor A.E. Feary
	Councillor G.G.J. Gibbs
	Councillor A. Harrold
	Councillor Mrs. L.H. Moore
	Councillor Mrs. H.H. Walker

O F F I C E R S

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

H.D.C. Martin, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
7 North Brink,
Wisbech. (Part Time)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

D. Brook, F.A.P.H.I.,
Exchange Square,
Wisbech.

Certificate of the Royal Society of
Health and Public Health Inspectors
Examination Joint Board.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Diploma, Royal
Society of Health.

Testamur Institute of Public
Cleansing.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

J.L. Fear, M.A.P.H.I.,

Certificate of the Royal Society of
Health and Public Health Inspectors
Examination Joint Board.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Society of Health.

Smoke Inspectors Certificate
Royal Society of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

R. Sissons, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Certificate of Public Health
Inspectors Education Board.

Dip. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Society of Health.

Smoke Inspectors Diploma Royal
Society of Health.

MEAT INSPECTOR:

J. Keenan,

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Sanitary Association of
Scotland.

Scottish National Meat Diploma.

TRAINEE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

V.J. George,

Inter. Examination of the Public
Health Inspectors Education
Board.

CLERK:

Mrs. B.F. Kerridge,

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1966

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

It is, I think, very significant that lung cancer is now in Wisbech, the second commonest cause of death in people under 65 years. This is largely a preventable disease and, the fact that smoking is the most important factor in its causation is now widely recognised. Surely, it is a measure of the power of tobacco over the personality, that so many, otherwise responsible people, continue to risk so much for the addictive satisfactions of smoking.

During this year the County Council stated that, in its view, the fluoride content of the drinking water of the district should be 1 part per million. While I am glad to be able to report this advance, it must be realised that such a statement of principle is a very long way from the practical reality, but hope that this lead from County Council level will be taken up by District Water Authorities in the area.

I would like to record my gratitude to Mr. Brook and the whole staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation at all times. The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee have always shown deep interest in the work of the department and this I very much appreciate.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

N. DOREEN C. MARTIN M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	4,666 acres
Estimated resident population mid-1966	17,410
mid-1965	17,500
Sum realised by a penny rate	£ 3,257
Rateable value	£837,448
Number of inhabited houses	5,792

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u> - 292			<u>*Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Administra-</u>	<u>England</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Birth Rate (adjusted)</u>	<u>tive County</u>	<u>and Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	156	136	17.27	15.7	17.7
Legitimate:	144	124			
Illegitimate:	12	12			

Area Comparability Factor (Births) - 1.03

<u>Still Births</u> - 3			<u>**Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Administra-</u>	<u>England</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Still Birth Rate</u>	<u>tive County</u>	<u>and Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	2	1	10.17	15.3	15.4
Legitimate:	2	1			
Illegitimate:	0	0			

<u>Deaths</u> - 248			<u>***Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Administra-</u>	<u>England</u>
<u>(all Causes)</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Death Rate (adjusted)</u>	<u>tive County</u>	<u>and Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	130	118	11.15	10.4	11.7

Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) - 0.78

Deaths (Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion) - 0

Deaths (Infants under 1 year of age) - 11

			<u>****Wisbech Borough Infant</u>	<u>Administra-</u>	<u>England</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Mortality Rate</u>	<u>tive County</u>	<u>and Wales</u>
<u>Total</u>	5	6	37.67	14.9	19.0
Legitimate:	5	6			
Illegitimate:	0	0			

Deaths of infants in 1st week of life	- 5	Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	-17.12
Deaths of infants from 1 to 4 weeks	- 2	Neonatal Mortality Rate	-24
Deaths of infants from 4 weeks to 1 year	- 4	Perinatal Mortality Rate	-27.12

NOTE: * Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1966 population;
 ** Rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still);
 *** Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1966 population;
 **** Deaths of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.

Vital Statistics cont'd

Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 year

Prematurity	3
Acute Adrenal Atrophy	1
Asphyxia: Cord round neck	1
Pneumonia	2
Congenital Malformations	3
Heart Disease and Convulsions	1

Deaths form Cancer (all ages) - 44

Live Birth, Still Birth, Death and Infant Mortality
Rates during past six years

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
<u>Live Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	12.57	17.66	16.81	19.28	16.59	17.27
Cambs. and Isle of Ely	16.94	16.49	16.58	18.06	16.3	15.7
England and Wales	17.4	18	18.2	18.5	18.1	17.7
<u>Still Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	6.47	13.6	6.94	15.01	13.98	10.17
Cambs. and Isle of Ely	17.78	13.51	19	15.54	10.7	15.3
England and Wales	19.1	18.1	17.2	16.4	15.8	15.4
<u>Death Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	13.11	14.64	10	10.12	9.55	11.15
Cambs. and Isle of Ely	10.89	11.39	11.68	10.99	9.8	10.4
England and Wales	12	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	3.25	22.58	35	21.34	24.82	37.67
Cambs. and Isle of Ely	14.73	37	22.8	18.31	15.6	14.9
England and Wales	21.6	20.7	21.1	19.9	19	18.9

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely
Executive Council:

16 Station Road,
Cambridge.

Clerk:

F.G. Lloyd Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board:

Union Lane,
Chesterton,
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer:

Dr. J.B. Ewen.

- (a) General: (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
(2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
(3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
(4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
(5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.
(6) Barton Road Hospital, Wisbech. (Aged Sick)

- (b) Maternity: (1) Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

All primiparous mothers may be confined in hospital and other mothers may be admitted for obstetric abnormality. A few mothers are admitted for very difficult social circumstances.

- (c) Infectious Diseases: (1) Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.
(2) Hardwick Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

- (d) Tuberculosis:

The area chest physician holds a weekly clinic at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

In-patient accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

- (e) Mental Illness:

Accommodation is provided (through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is arranged directly by the Local General Practitioners.

- (f) Veneral Disease:

- (1) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
(2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
(3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

- (g) Medical Equipment Services:

Medical Equipment is provided on loan by the St. John's Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) Midwifery, General Sick and Public Health Nursing:

The nursing staff is employed by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Two full time midwives and relief midwives are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia, pethedine and trilene and the necessary machines approved by the Central Midwives Board are available for their use.

(b) Ambulance and Hospital Car Service:

On 28th February, 1966 a new radio-controlled ambulance system came into being. There is now one ambulance control centre at March which directs ambulances and hospital cars with speed and economy to the points where they are required. As part of the overall scheme 3 ambulances are stationed at Wisbech and there are 11 other ambulances throughout the Northern area of the County.

(c) Infant and Child Welfare:

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in the Horsefair is held twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The midwives hold an Antenatal Clinic for expectant mothers who are to be confined at home.

(d) School Minor Ailments Clinic:

County Clinic, The Horsefair, Wisbech.

(e) Home Help Service:

Available for confinements, cases of illness and for social reasons in the aged.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Public Health Laboratory Service,
Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital,
Midland Road,
Peterborough.
(Director: Dr. J. Glencross)

Public Analyst,
The Laboratory,
Tenison Road,
Cambridge.
(S. Greenburgh P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

OTHER SERVICES

Health Education

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and mother and baby care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church Groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education and such requests are readily complied with by the Public Health Department.

Lectures on food hygiene and the work of the department have been given by Mr. Brook and his staff to students at the Isle of Ely College.

Meals on Wheels:

For some years now, the Womens Voluntary Service has provided "Meals on Wheels" service for the aged on two days each week. This plays an important part in helping to prevent deterioration of health in the very old who live by themselves. The food is cooked at The Metal Box Company Canteen and a very small charge is made to the recipients.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Number of children under the age of 1 year who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year	98
Between the ages of 1 and 4 years	146
Between the ages of 5 and 14 years	42
Boosters	319

Notifiable Infectious Diseases - 1966

Total cases Notified

Smallpox	0
Scarlet Fever	8
Diphtheria	0
Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Enteric Fever	0
Measles	302
Whooping Cough	1
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0
Food Poisoning	4
Dysentery	1
Chickenpox	107
Infective Hepatitis	1

Notifications of Tuberculosis:

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
- 1	0	0	0	0
- 5	0	0	0	0
- 15	0	0	0	0
- 25	0	0	0	0
- 45	1	0	0	0
- 65 and over	0	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1966

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective & Parasitic diseases .	0	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	8	3	11
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	8	20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	2	3	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	14	13	27
Coronary disease, angina	28	16	44
Hypertension with heart disease	2	0	2
Other heart disease	17	19	36
Other circulatory disease	3	3	6
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	10	12	22
Bronchitis	8	3	11
Other diseases of respiratory system .	1	1	2
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined & ill-defined diseases .	8	21	29
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	1	2	3
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS	130	118	248

Deaths from Selected Causes during the years 1960 to 1966

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Lung Cancer	3	7	8	8	11	9	11(6)*
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	4	2	4	0	2
All other accidents	3	6	9	5	4	8	4(2)*
Suicide	3	2	4	2	2	3	3(1)*
TOTALS	11	16	25	17	21	20	20(9)*

I draw your attention to these causes of death as being essentially preventable. The number of deaths from lung cancer, of course, gives no indication of the number of cases diagnosed and successfully treated.

(* Numbers in brackets are under 65 years old.)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1966

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my tenth Annual Report. It is pleasing to be able to state that work has continued in all fields of environmental health with the assistance of an unchanged staff.

The elimination of unfit dwelling houses continued within the recognised programme. It is opportune to give a reminder that, in my opinion, there is very little difference in the remaining seven hundred or so houses left in the clearance programme. Therefore, any decision to speed up clearance will be justified. It may be significant to observe that the rate of completion of new municipal houses, to let, is closely in line with the number of houses demolished.

Constant liaison has been maintained with food handlers and processors. One becomes increasingly aware of the intense activity in the food industry. It is abundantly clear that more housewives, caterers and institutions are anxious to allow some outside agency take the donkey work out of food preparation. The Borough Council are thus faced with a duty to maintain vigilance over the development of hygienic practices and also to deal with the vast problems of the disposal of solid and liquid wastes inherent in modern food processing. Local slaughterhouses provide facilities for the Borough and surrounding area, whilst meat is also extensively distributed from the town to depots up to two hundred miles distant. Contact has been maintained with the growing business of exporting grain through the port.

Our proud heritage of clean air did not avoid attention. Particular attention has been paid to observations of boiler chimneys serving factories and horticultural premises. The Borough Council has set a fine example in the domestic field by installing smokeless appliances in all their new development.

The Department is responsible for many items of miscellaneous legislation. Previous reports have carried brief mention of the licensing of gangmasters. The Agricultural Gangs Act, 1867 placed the duty of licensing gangmasters ("one who hires children, young persons or women with a view to their being employed in agricultural labour on lands not in his own occupation") on two or more justices, but later licensing fell on the local authority. Recent legislation has eliminated the need to licence gangmasters.

May I thank the Chairman and Committee members for their interest and guidance and my Colleagues for their co-operation.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

D. BROOK, F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT

<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:</u>	Complaints - Housing	36
	Other	80
	Drains inspected and tested	344
	Sewer Connections and revisits ..	93
	Caravans	52
	Filthy and Verminous Premises ...	4
	Infectious Diseases	45
<u>HOUSING ACTS:</u>	Inspected and recorded	197
	Housing Applications	8
	Improvement Grants	618
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:</u>	Slaughterhouses (Hygiene and Cruelty).....	179
	Food Hygiene Visits	155
	Food Preparation Premises	112
	Ice Cream Premises	11
	Dairy Premises	10
	Market Stalls	131
	Unsound Food Visits	44
	Wholesale Food Auctions	96
<u>RENT ACT:</u>	Inspections	0
<u>SHOPS ACT:</u>	Inspections	20
<u>OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAIL- WAY PREMISES ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits	238
<u>FACTORIES ACT:</u>	Inspections	9
<u>PET ANIMALS ACT AND ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT:</u>	Inspections	9
<u>CLEAN AIR ACT:</u>	Inspections and Observations	60
<u>RODENT CONTROL:</u>	Inspections	150
<u>LITTER ACT:</u>	Inspections	10
<u>PORT HEALTH AREA:</u>	Inspections	35
<u>NOISE ABATEMENT ACT:</u>	Inspections	4

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Wisbech is a constituent authority of the Wisbech and District Water Board and a mains water supply is available to almost every dwelling-house in the Borough.

The supply is obtained from shallow bore holes and the river Nar at Marham, Norfolk and has always been satisfactory in quality after initial treatment at the source. A new service reservoir with a capacity of 5 million gallons was brought into operation during 1966 and this acts as a balancing reservoir to maintain pressure at times of heavy demand. It is anticipated that the new bore holes at Beechamwell will be in use by the end of 1967 and should improve supplies so that no restrictions on the use of water will be necessary during the summer months.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo solvent effect and no contamination has occurred which called for special action by the department.

The number of houses in the Borough without an internal piped supply is 16, a reduction of 7 from last year.

Town: 9 Rural areas: 7

Of these houses, 3 are vacant and awaiting demolition, 2 are in confirmed Clearance Areas and 5 are in the slum clearance programme for the next 5 years.

Examination of Water Supply

The Manager of the Wisbech and District Water Board has made available regular monthly summaries of routine bacteriological samples taken in the Borough in addition to which the department has submitted water samples to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

The samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors included mains water from houses, offices, caravan sites, shops, public taps and port hydrants.

Raw Waters (at source)

	No. of samples	Coliforms	
		Negative	Positive
<u>Water Board</u> Bacteriological	146	134	12

The Water Board carried out 12 chemical analyses of rainwater at the source and these were satisfactory.

Examination of Water Supply cont'd
Treated Waters

	Samples Submitted	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
<u>Water Board</u>			
Chemical	113	113	Nil
Bacteriological	684	683	1
<u>Public Health Dept.</u>			
Bacteriological	42	42	Nil

Extensions to Mains

Chivers Hartley Main	105 yards of 15" A.C.
	475 " " 12" A.C.
	8 " " 9" A.C.
St. Martins Road	100 " " 3" P.V.C.
Balding & Mansell Fire Main	6 " " 6" P.V.C.
Extension at Railway Road	40 " " 2" P.V.C.
Stow Road/Fundrey Road	126 " " 2" P.V.C.
Elizabeth Terrace	132 " " 4" P.V.C.
Aged Persons Home,	46 " " 3" P.V.C.
Kirkgate Street	120 " " 2" P.V.C.
Kirkgate Street	67 " " 3" P.V.C.
	420 " " 4" P.V.C.

Total main laid 1,645 yards

New Connections made
in the Borough
during the year 1966 = 68

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Typical Chemical Analysis

Tapwater 8th December, 1966, 2.20 p.m.

Bacteriological Results

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C	0
Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hours at 20°C - 22°C	0
Coliform count per 100 ml.	0
Bact. coli I count per 100 ml.	0

Physical Characteristics

Appearance Clear and bright	pH.	7.1
Turbidity Nil	Odour	Nil
Colour Nil	Taste	Nil

Chemical results expressed in parts per million

Free carbon dioxide	23.7
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.20
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.02
Nitrate nitrogen	8.3
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	210
Hardness as CaCO ₃ :	
Total	272
Carbonate (temporary)	210
Non-carbonate (permanent)	62
Residual chlorine	0.15
Total solids, dried at 180°C	380
Aluminium (Al)	Nil
Calcium (Ca)	103.8
Iron (Fe)	0.002
Magnesium (Mg)	3.13
Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Lead (Pb)	Nil
Sodium (Na)	Not examined
Zinc (Zn)	Nil
Silica (SiO ₂)	7.0
Sulphate (SO ₄)	44.7
Carbonate (CO ₃)	126
Chloride (Cl)	30.5
Fluoride (F)	0.05

General Remarks

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

J.S. Collins
Chemist and Bacteriologist
Hesbech and District Water Board

SWIMMING BATHS

The Borough Council own and operate at Crabmarsh an unheated open air swimming pool with a capacity of 120,000 gallons. The source of the water used in the bath is the mains supply of the Wisbech and District Water Board and the treatment is by a Bell Bros. sand filter using soda and alumina prior to filtration and chlorination. The water in the bath is circulated once every 8 hours.

Three school swimming pools continued to operate during the summer months as follows:-

Peckover School	18,000 gals.	Cloth filters
Queen's Boys' School	56,000 gals.	Sand filter
Queen's Girls' School	39,000 gals.	Diatomite filter

All of the school pools use hypochlorite solutions for sterilising the water.

As in previous years, close liaison was maintained with pool operators and assistance given where problems arose. In the case of the Crabmarsh pool the chlorination plant broke down and it was necessary to adopt a makeshift arrangement to dripfeed hypochlorite solution into the pool and our experience of the use of hypochlorites in school pools proved useful.

It was also necessary to chlorinate, by hand, at the Queen's Girls' School when the hypochlorite pump became faulty and difficulty was experienced in getting a faulty filter repaired.

My thanks are once more due to Mr. John Collins, the chemist of the Wisbech and District Water Board for his advice and assistance on the problems that arose.

Sample Results

Pool	Samples Submitted	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Crabmarsh	12	8	4
Peckover School	6	6	0
Queen's Boys' School	10	9	1
Queen's Girl's School	8	8	0

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The last section of the South Ward Sewerage Scheme was completed. Attention was directed to ensuring all properties in the built up area and industrial estate within the South Ward were connected to the sewers. Eight dwellinghouses and one commercial establishment remain to be dealt with. Historically I would be remiss in omitting mention of the trade effluent from the laundry in Elm Low Road. The premises are now connected to the sewer. No longer will the hot effluent be discharged into the bed of the Canal. A satisfactory end to years of uneasiness.

Sewerage facilities remain absent from an important part of the West Ward, North of the River. The possibilities of connecting this area to the existing sewerage system are remote.

The need remains for an efficient sewage disposal system to deal effectively with sewage from all domestic, commercial and business premises. The local canning industry exaggerate this particular requirement.

The Borough Council is not alone in facing the problem of additional sewerage and sewage disposal. The neighbouring rural authorities of Marshland and Wisbech have exactly the same needs.

During the year the Council instructed Messrs. Binney and Partners, Consulting Engineers to prepare a comprehensive report to show the sewerage and sewage disposal requirements of the Borough, bearing in mind the sewage flows which may be accepted from parts of the Rural Districts of Marshland and Wisbech. The prospects of a regional scheme looms on the horizon - a public health advance and an end to parochialism.

In the intervening years, day to day problems arise. The disposal of cesspool contents into the sewer off the North Brink brings unpleasant odours to a neighbourhood designed to attract the eye. This facility is used at times now by the Wisbech Rural District. Difficulty has been experienced in disposing of sludge from the partial treatment works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection is maintained throughout the district, metal dustbins are in general use for refuse storage, as provided by the different owners. Bins are usually $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet capacity or less. Bulky packaging and a gradual reduction in the number of open fireplaces creates a scene of overspill at many properties. Sooner or later the storage of refuse will be part of the municipal service. To adopt such system may ensure dustless loading of vehicles.

Refuse Collection and Disposal cont'd

All refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at sites up to five miles distant along the disused Wisbech Canal under the joint arrangements operated by the Borough Council together with Marshland and Wisbech Rural District Councils. Covering material is excavated from the Canal by means of a dragline and spread over the exposed surfaces of the refuse using a tracked dozer. More commercial and industrial firms made use of the tipping facilities.

Additional collection of refuse is arranged, where essential, at the following rates:-

16/0d. per hour using tractor and trailer;
30/0d. per hour using refuse collecting vehicle.

Charges for direct disposal at the tip face are:-

5/0d. for a load of one ton;
7/6d. for a load of two tons;
9/0d. for a load of three tons;
10/6d. for a load of four tons;
12/0d. for a load of five tons. (maximum)

No charge to be made for loads of hardcore and/or soil.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Situation	Women	Men	
	W.C's.	W.C's.	Urinals
Barton Road	1	1	2
Cattle Market	2	1	2
Horsefair	3	1	6
Market Place	4	3	7
Mount Pleasant	2	1	3
Norfolk Street	3	2	4
Norwich Road	2	1	3
Old Market	3	2	6
The Park	4	2	4

Seven of the nine conveniences are either fairly modern or are adequate in construction and facilities. There may be a case for retaining the temporary arrangements on the Horsefair, pending redevelopment. The outmoded conveniences in Barton Road playing fields could now be done away with.

PERSONAL CLEANSING

Two persons were treated at the Cleansing Station.

Disinfection and disinfestation of bedding and clothing is carried out when necessary by arrangement with the engineer of the Clarkson Hospital.

Terminal disinfection of rooms after infectious disease is available when requested.

MILK

Registration and Licensing

There are 24 names on the Register of Distributors of milk and 4 premises registered as Dairies.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

101 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

Type of Milk	No. of samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Biological Test	
		Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Untreated	20	16	0	0	0	0	0	18	0
Pasteurised	74	62	1	74	0	0	0	0	0
Sterilised	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Cream	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	101	78	3	76	0	5	0	18	0

Untreated Milk

Of the 20 samples submitted, 4 Methylene Blue Tests were declared void.

The biological tests showed no evidence of Tuberculosis or Brucella in any of the 20 samples but, in 2 cases, the milk showed slight growth of Staph. aureus. In both cases the information was passed onto either the Public Health Authority concerned or the Divisional Veterinary Officer for action.

Milk cont'd

Pasteurised Milk

There were eleven occasions when the Methylene Blue Test was declared void and, in one case, the sample failed to satisfy the test. This sample was one of a fresh delivery of one pint bottles and no explanation for the failure was found. Repeat samples proved satisfactory.

Cream

Both samples of pasteurised cream failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, possibly due to the test being not particularly suitable for cream.

As the producer was in another district, the Public Health Inspector of that authority was requested to investigate the matter.

It would appear desirable for a reliable test to be introduced to judge the cleanliness and keeping quality of cream.

Milk Bottles

During the year 8 batches of washed milk bottles were submitted for a check on the efficiency of the bottle washing plant.

In each case the reports were satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Three licensed slaughterhouses continued to operate throughout the year.

Number of Animals Slaughtered since
"Appointed Day" - 1st January, 1961

Year	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs incl. Sows and Boars	Total number of animals expressed in Cattle Units
1961	1,774	15	2,554	9,650	7,115
1962	2,072	16	2,384	9,538	7,323
1963	2,392	5	2,739	9,689	7,785
1964	6,864	11	7,220	9,781	13,202
1965	8,529	23	4,597	10,893	14,899
1966	9,693	47	4,599	10,674	15,959

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection cont'd

The above table shows an overall increase in throughput of 5%, made up principally by a 13% increased throughput of cattle. Throughput of lambs, sheep, pigs and sows remaining practically constant, along with an insignificant number of calves.

The private slaughterhouse in Tinkers Drove, the subject of prolonged purchase procedure under Part V, Housing Act, 1957, is likely to discontinue operations in 1967. In November, 1966 The Lands Tribunal considered reference by consent of the matter of compensation in respect of 4.3 acres of land lying between Tinkers Drove and Waterlees Road, comprising pasture land, licensed slaughterhouse, loose boxes, lairage, yards, house and bungalow. The findings were published in December, 1966.

Pig lairages were reconstructed at the slaughterhouse in Oil Mill Lane.

New lairages are in course of construction at the Abattoir, The Chase. Alterations and adaptations are likely to continue at these premises for two years. The operating company purchased additional land and buildings on the West Side of the existing curtilage, on which will be located a frozen meat depot.

Hours of slaughter remained very even, Monday to Saturday, with slight extensions of normal working hours. There has been no need to seek compulsory measures to fix hours of slaughter.

Casualty animals present a constant problem. The proprietors of the Abattoir, The Chase now insist that each casualty animal must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate, complete with a statement concerning the application of drugs.

Evidence of tuberculosis was confined to pigs, presumably of avian origin. All cases were localised.

The incidence of parasites involving the rejection of livers remains high. The lesions in pigs have been shown to local breeders, to encourage reduction of round worm. Cattle present more problems in that the infestation may have commenced in the young animal, say in Ireland, continued on pasture land in Wales and Anglesey and so on.

No slaughterhouse has facilities for sterilizing unfit meat and offal. Consequently such products are stained and removed by a contractor to be sterilized - perhaps a reasonable compromise between public health and economic considerations.

A considerable quantity of meat and offal is distributed from Wisbech to depots east of a line from Liverpool to Bournemouth. There has been a high standard of maintenance and cleanliness displayed by the vehicle operators and there has been an apparent absence of spoilage.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection cont'd
Licences to Slaughter and Stun Animals

17 persons were licenced to slaughter and stun animals.

Knackers Yard

There is no Knackers Yard within the Borough, although two such premises are available within 10 miles of Wisbech.

Number of Animals Slaughtered during the year
ending 31st December, 1966

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed	9,680	13	47	4,599	9,551	1,123
Number inspected	9,680	13	47	4,599	9,551	1,123
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	2	6	4	12	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,080	6	17	186	512	46
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	21.5%	61.5%	48.9%	4.1%	5.5%	4.9%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	12	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.12%	0.18%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total number of animals slaughtered: 25,013

Quantities Condemned: Tuberculosis 183 lbs.
Other Diseases 36,332 lbs.
36,515 lbs.

POULTRY INSPECTION

During 1966 there were three premises in the Borough where poultry processing was regularly carried on. Two of these were small operators averaging about 20 birds per week for local trade and one killed a quantity of birds for freezing, especially near Christmas. The total kill amounted to only about 5,000 birds per year, the majority being hens.

Occasional visits were made to these premises but no birds were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Two of the premises are not now used for poultry processing and the remaining one is visited each time poultry dressing takes place.

COMPLAINTS OF UNSATISFACTORY FOOD

During 1966 the department dealt with 10 formal complaints relating either to inferior quality of food, or, unfitness of food.

In respect of a complaint of the sale of a mouldy ginger cake, the facts were reported to the Council who instructed the Town Clerk to warn the firm concerned that a repetition of the offence would result in legal proceedings being taken.

The following matters were investigated by the public health inspectors who, after investigation, were satisfied that either no offence was committed or that the firms concerned had taken all possible steps to prevent a recurrence of the offence and that legal proceedings were not warranted in these cases:-

- Discolouration of contents in tin of tomatoes;
- Damaged tin of corned beef;
- Cheese spread alleged to be hard and not spreadable;
- Mouldy Angel Cake;
- Inferior quality spring onions;
- Sale of meat alleged to be unfit;
- Mouldy sliced bread;
- Rancid and mouldy cheese;
- Sale of meat alleged to be discoloured and unfit.

FOOD SHOPS

The following tabulated list gives the number of the various types of food premises in the Borough.

Bakehouses	12
Cafes	9
Grocers and General Mixed Stores	58
Greengrocers	10
Fishmongers	5
Fried Fish Shops	13
Butchers	28
Food Factories	14
Wholesale Fruit Merchants (Processors)	13
Flour Millers and Granary	2
Licensed Premises and Registered Clubs	60
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1
Market Stalls	28
Confectioners	14

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in food premises.

Sinks provided	1
Hot water provided	4
Wash-hand basins provided	4
Premises repaired	5
T.C.'s. provided	1
T.C.'s. repaired	1
Artificial lighting	5
Cleansed and redecorated	1
Ventilation	1

Food Hygiene

Regular checks were made of food shops, markets and food preparation premises during the year. In several instances it was necessary to require improvements to premises but, generally, these were found to be satisfactory.

The year saw extensive developments in two of the larger food processing factories in the town. Both had previously been concerned in fruit processing but, in one instance, the development was into the preparation and pre-packing of vegetables, mainly for the canteen trade and the other was the construction of a completely new section to deal with the canning of meat and vegetable products.

The use of unsuitable premises for carrot washing continued to be a problem and it was necessary to take action to improve hygienic standards.

Food Hygiene cont'd

The long awaited Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966 arrived towards the latter end of the year to come into operation on the 1st January, 1967.

Before they came into force, they were amended and this delayed progress with their enforcement for a time. The regulations should be most useful in promoting good hygienic standards in market and other food stalls and in delivery and sales vehicles.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

- (i) Number of premises to which the regulations apply 239
- (ii) Number of above fitted to comply with regulation 16 (wash-basins) 239
- (iii) Number of premises to which regulation 19 (sinks) applies 198
- (iv) Number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 19 198

UN SOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughter-houses, were found unfit and surrendered.

Tins

Meat 55
 Fruit and Vegetables 196
 Soup 1
 Fish 10
 Milk 17
 Custard Powder 3

Frozen Foods

Fish 91 pkts.
 Vegetables 45 "
 Various Meats 40 "
 Strawberry Mousse ... 2 "
 Potato Chips 2 "
 Chickens 2 No.
 Meat Pies 12 No.

Various

Marmalade and Jam 5 jars
 Clatney 3 "
 Horlicks 1 "
 Bovril 1 "
 Chickens 6 No.
 Cucumbers 12 No.

Salt 1 pkt.
 Cake 113 lbs.
 Fish 53 "
 Cheese 40 "
 Beef 20 "
 Ham 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Routine inspections of poultry at the poultry auctions and in butchers shops were carried out in the days preceding Christmas.

ANIMAL FOOD FACTORY

One national animal food processing factory operates within the Borough. Meat, offal and fish are handled in the frozen state only. Regular spot inspections are carried out of vehicles used to transport meat and offal from knackers yards and ports in order to ensure compliance with "Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960". Certificates are issued to accompany consignments of sterilised pet food to numerous foreign countries.

ICE CREAM

110 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale and 109 for the storage and sale of ice cream.

44 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year with the following results:-

Grade I	34
Grade II	6
Grade III	3
Grade IV	1

Four samples were from the only manufacturer in the town, 17 were from cafes and canteens and the remainder were from shops and mobile ice cream vendors.

There was a general slight improvement in the results over previous years and, some of the credit for this improvement, can be attributed to health education in the hygienic dispensing of ice cream in cafes and restaurants.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There were no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no known users of liquid egg. No samples of liquid egg were sent for examination.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Although no contraventions of the Dark Smoke Regulations were recorded during the year, it became increasingly necessary to give verbal reminders to factory engineers concerning the increase in smoke from boiler chimneys. As the throughput of factories becomes greater, it is certain that boilers will become overloaded with consequent smoke emissions and I foresee that we shall shortly be asked to approve additional boiler plant at some of these premises.

Clean Air Act cont'd

A new insulated stack was fitted to one boiler in the town as a result of representations by this Department concerning a nuisance from acid smuts. After some adjustments had been made this proved to be satisfactory and it is now intended to replace an adjoining steel stack by a similar insulated one.

During the year prior approval was given to the installation of one new furnace as follows:-

One gas fired boiler at Sketchleys Ltd., 28/29 High Street, Wisbech. This was installed at a new dry cleaning factory. Originally, approval was given for oil firing but the firm decided on a change of fuel.

Advice on the height required for new chimneys was given in four instances.

There is an increasing trend towards the use of smokeless fuels both in private houses and in Council built accommodation. All bungalows and flats which are being built by the Council are heated by gas appliances and there has been a steady increase in the sale of gas room heaters to private individuals over the past four years. In addition there is also a move towards central heating, particularly in new houses.

It is obvious that people today are turning against the inefficient coal fire with its associated dirt and messy coal carrying and ash removal and I am sure we are moving towards the day when there will be a public demand for "smokeless zones". At the time of writing, more than half of the "black area" of Greater London is already smokeless and many other industrial towns are well on the way to being smoke free. Although Wisbech is certainly not a "black" town let us not be complacent but recall what a difference a good scrub has made to one or two commercial buildings in the town centre.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE

The following Orders were made during the year:-

Wisbech (Park Street) Clearance Order, 1966	13 houses
Wisbech(Park Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1966	13 houses
Wisbech (Marsh Walk) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1966	13 houses
Wisbech (Duke Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1966	17 houses

Slum Clearance cont'd

Also within the Clearance Areas associated with the above Orders were two unfit houses owned by the Borough Council.

No public inquiries into any Orders were held during the year but, confirmation was received of the Prospect Place, Bowthorpe Road and Victoria Place Orders. In the case of the Prospect Place Orders the time lag between the public inquiry and the Ministers confirmation was ten and a half months. Although this is perhaps exceptional, it does show one of the causes of delay in dealing with slum clearance areas. Other problems arise during the waiting period as some of the occupiers are rehoused and the houses left derelict and the remainder of the houses are under a cloud and tend to deteriorate due to lack of incentive to carry out repairs and decorations.

Difficulty again arose where Clearance Orders had been made and the owners left to demolish their own houses. The Bowthorpe Road Order houses were mostly vacant by the end of the year and trouble was being experienced with vandalism and squatters. (In fact in early 1967 the property was in such a state of dereliction that the Council was obliged to step in and demolish the houses for the owners.)

During the year, demolition orders were made in respect of six houses, an undertaking was given not to relet a house for human habitation and one house was made fit for habitation.

There was an increase in the number of houses demolished and also the number of families rehoused over the figures for last year. These may not be maintained in the coming year due to delays which have arisen in the commencement of the next building contract.

Many inquiries continue to reach the department about the future of individual houses which reach the open market and are located in areas liable to clearance action in the existing programme. Any information revealed to potential buyers is well received. But, how soon a buyer forgets when he wishes to sell again in three or four years time.

Estimated number of unfit houses remaining	763
Number of years necessary to deal with the above	
houses	10
Applicants on waiting list at end of year	247
Houses completes in 1966: Wisbech Corporation	60
Private Enterprise	35
Total post war houses completed	1,636

Housing
Units

Houses completed to let
No. of families displaced

Target

Y E A R

120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

1957

1958

1959

1960

1961

1962

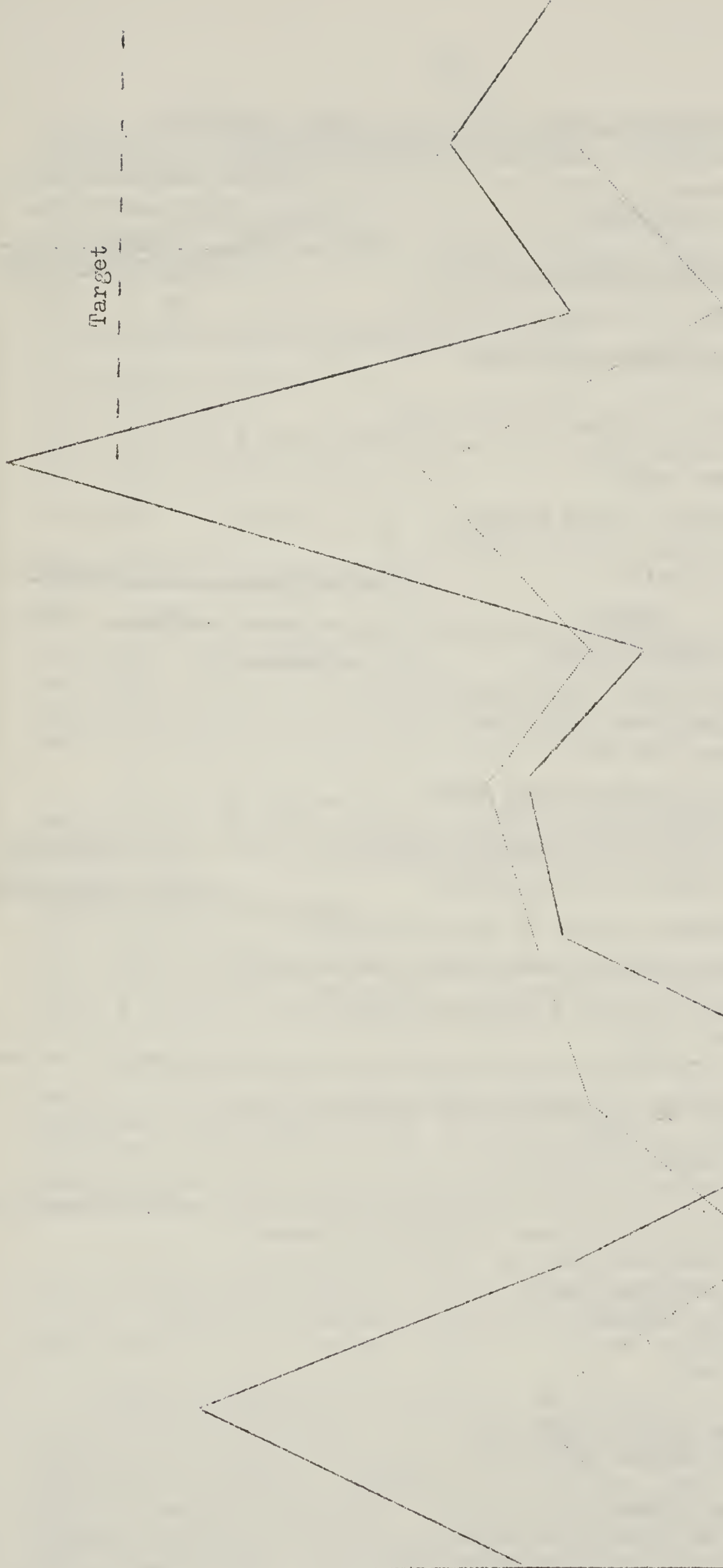
1963

1964

1965

1966

1967



Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere
Return for the year ending 31st December, 1966

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Houses demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>In or adjoining Clearance Areas</u>			
Houses unfit for human habitation	36	87	39
<u>Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas</u>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Secs. 16 or 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	27	17	7
Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	4	0	0
TOTALS	67	104	46
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	Number		
Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and 26, Housing Act, 1961	2	0	0
Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	0	0	0
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED		By Owner	By local authority
After informal action by local authority		24	0
After formal action under Public Health Acts		3	0
After formal notice under Secs. 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957		3	0

Demolition of Unfit Houses took place at:-

Clearance Areas - 36 (30)*

66,67,68,69,70,71,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82 and 83 Cannon Street.
1,2,3,8,9,10,11,12,13 and 14 Napier Terrace.
10 and 12 Norwich Road.
1,2 and 3 Prospect Place.
1 and 2 Ruby Street.
28/29 Trafalgar Row.
1 West Street.

Individual Unfit Houses

(a) Formal Action - 5 (10)*

131 Elm Low Road.
50,51 and 52 Norfolk Street.
12 West Parade and Corn Metre P.H.

Individual Unfit Houses cont'd

(b) Informal Action - 22 (2)*

2,2a,3,3a,4,4a,5,5a,6,6a,7 and 7a King's Walk.
143,145,147,149,151,153,155,157 and 159 Lynn Road.
77 Norfolk Street.

Other Council Owned Properties - 8 (0)*

72 Elizabeth Terrace.
248 Elm Road.
14,16 and 164 Norwich Road.
1,2 and 3 Prospect Place.

*Figures in brackets are for 1965

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

A detailed survey was carried out of several houses known to be let to more than one family. No cases of gross overcrowding were found but, it was necessary to serve detailed preliminary notices requiring improvements in the provision of amenities and means of escape in case of fire in the case of four properties.

It was also necessary to serve statutory notices for the remedying of defects of repair and for the maintenance of appliances in the case of two properties.

IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

During 1966, three further Improvement Areas were declared, making a total of 5 areas and, the progress to the end of the year is shown in the following table.

The original area involving Cordon Street and neighbourhood has now ceased active improvement and awaits the expiration of Suspended Improvement Notices in 1970. However, this will still leave over one quarter of the houses lacking amenities and, under present legislation, the Council will be unable to require their improvement.

It is my opinion that the '5 point' amenity standard should not be considered solely as part of a standard of housing fitness; it is a standard of personal social necessities to be expected and demanded in this present day.

Housing legislation is made for the benefit of people, but is directed at buildings. It seems a pity that owner/occupiers who are not willing to improve their houses cannot be treated similarly to unwilling tenants; i.e. give the local authority power to require improvements within 5 years, with the owner/occupier having the right to require the Council to purchase their property and, if need be, re-house them.

	Wisbech No. 1 (Cordon St.) Improvement Area, 1965.	Wisbech No. 2 (Opportune Rd) Improvement Area, 1965.	Wisbech No. 3 (Osborne Rd.) Improvement Area, 1966.	Wisbech No. 4 (Cannon St.) Improvement Area, 1966.	Wisbech No. 5 (Colville Rd.) Improvement Area, 1966.
Total Houses.....	65	36	47	88	196
Improveable Houses:)Owner/occupied....	30	2	24	35	43
)Tenanted	17	20	12	14	29
Improvement Notices } Immediate.....	2	13	6	2	3
Served: } Suspended	5	7	5	5	16
Applied for Grant:)Owner/occupied....	11	-	3	7	3
)Tenanted	6	3	5	8	6
Works Completed.....	16	1	-	3	-

Improvement of Dwellings cont'd
Standard Grants

The following is a summary of the action taken on grants during the year:-

Applications received	45
Applications passed	45
Applications rejected - unfit	0
Applications withdrawn	1

Cases in which work was completed and the grant paid:-
32 applications for a total of £4,843.17s.1d.

Amenities provided with aid of grants:-

Bathrooms	30
Wash-hand basins	29
Hot water systems	31
Internal w.c's	32
Larders	18

The standard grant system remains basically simple and speedy to administer but, the following point is worthy of mention.

Not infrequently, houses are found to have an internal w.c. accessible directly from the kitchen. Many houses were built in this manner and, although this unhygienic state of affairs is remedied as a condition of grant, written guidance from the Ministry advising that this "illegal" amenity should be discounted as an existing standard amenity when calculating grant would be helpful.

Discretionary Grants

Applications received	4
Applications passed	4
Applications rejected	0
Applications withdrawn	0

Cases in which work was completed and grant paid:-
2 dwellings from one house and, improvements to two houses for a total of £745.4s.10d.

Council House Improvements

Progress on a scheme already approved by the Ministry continues at a steady rate and 23 council owned houses were improved during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

No Common Lodging House remains in the Borough. The Harp Inn, once a lodging house, now a Council owned premise, retains its identity but only permanent lodgers remain. Vagrants again caused nuisances in empty property - this year the age group appeared much younger.

ALMSHOUSES

The King's Walk buildings were demolished during the year. The combined Municipal Charities are searching around for planning permission, finance and any other spark of information to ensure redevelopment of the site.

Meanwhile the six almshouses in Canal Side, Stermyn Street and Lynn Road remain occupied. The whole are due for clearance during 1968. One may express a hope that the proposed replacement will be available, within two years time. To condone any further occupation of existing almshouses beyond 1968 must be an indictment against those of us who judge housing standards.

RENT ACT, 1957

(Return for the year 1966)

1.	Number of applications for certificates	1
2.	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	0
3.	Number of decisions to issue certificates -	
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	1
	(b) in respect of all defects	0
4.	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first schedule	0
5.	Number of undertakings refused by local authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first schedule	0
6.	Number of certificates issued	1
7.	Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates	0
8.	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates ...	0
9.	Decisions by local authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection	0
10.	Certificates cancelled by local authority	0

CARAVANS

Residential

There are four licenced residential sites in the Borough.

Ingleborough site, Osborne Road.	- Licenced for 20 vans
Poplar site, Osborne Road.	- Licenced for 6 vans
Broadway site, Osborne Road.	- Licenced for 41 vans
The Grove site, Magazine Lane.	- Licenced for 43 vans

Work continued in the provision of amenities at The Grove and by the end of the year the site was about half full of caravans. The other sites were the subject of periodic inspections and a reasonable standard was maintained in the cleanliness and condition of the facilities provided.

It is obviously difficult to keep communal toilet blocks in a satisfactory state, even if the site warden or some other person is made responsible. Even daily cleaning appears inadequate due to misuse by some of the caravan occupants. If any future sites are licenced (and I doubt whether there is need for any more) I shall not be satisfied with anything less than 1 w.c. per van situated alongside the van.

Itinerant Caravans

My comments on the problem of gypsies in last years report are as valid as ever; we are still without an official site for these people and we are still obliged to shunt them from one unsuitable pitch to another.

The County Council, under instructions from Whitehall, have attempted to assess the problem and discussed it with the county district councils but no one seems willing to take the bull by the horns. A suggestion by this department that a certain site outside the town was suitable for a gypsy site brought forth a long petition of protest from householders, farmers and businessmen within a considerable radius of the spot. No one seems to have any sympathy for these people or their problems.

FACTORIES

Regular visits have been made to premises and houses in which work is carried out.

Factories Act, 1937 - 1959

(1) Inspections for purposes of provision as to health.

Factories cont'd

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	12	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority	93	7	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	108	9	0	0

(2) Outwork

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list	No. of Cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for fail-ing to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	None	None	None	None	None
Stringing labels	63	None	None	None	None	None

NON-INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

Shops Act Administration

Every opportunity has been taken to inform shopkeepers of the duties and requirements in relation to trading days and hours and, hours of employment of young persons. There has been an increase in the number of shops closing for one whole day each week. In contrast, more mixed businesses trade on six or seven days.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963
Shops Act, 1950

A regular number of visit has been kept up to continue the non-spectacular work in surveillance of non-industrial premises.

Many people are involved in the commercial and distributive occupations, predominantly deployed in small numbers.

An Analysis of Contraventions found and notified to occupiers is set out below:-

Lack of cleanliness in premises	24
Evidence of rooms overcrowded	2
Absence of effective provision for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature	59
Lack of ventilation	11
Insufficient natural or artificial lighting	56
Insufficiency and lack of cleanliness in relation to sanitary conveniences	46
Absence of accessible washing facilities	52
Absence of conveniently accessible supply of drinking water	8
Lack of accommodation for clothing	10
Need for suitable facilities for sitting	1
Need to provide alternative type of seats	34
Lack of eating facilities in shop premises	6
Repairs and maintenance required to floors, stairs and passages	68
Fencing required to exposed machinery	13
Need to provide first aid equipment	61

Investigation was carried out into one accident due to a fall of an employee in a food shop.

Agriculture

The requirements of the Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 are reasonably well met in the agricultural holdings in the Borough.

It was found necessary to serve informal notices in respect of insufficient or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at one premise in the Borough.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Return for the year 1966

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(1) Number of properties in local authorities district:	7,123	101
(2) Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification:	159	8
Number infested by: Rats	138	8
Mice	21	-
(3) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notifications:	168	24
Number infested by: Rats	60	24
Mice	72	-

WISBLICH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

<u>Ships from</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Number Visited</u>		<u>Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board</u>
			<u>by the P.H.I.</u>	<u>by the M.O.H.</u>	
Foreign Ports	172	41,348 N.R. 101,127 Cargo	172	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	103	14,561 N.R. 38,761 Cargo	41	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	275	56,409 N.R. 139,888 Cargo	213	Nil	Nil

Character of shipping and trade during the year.

Passenger Traffic: Number of Passengers - Inwards Nil
- Outwards Nil

Cargo Traffic: Principal Imports: Petrol, potash, timber and pig iron.
Principal Exports: Bricks, barley, wheat and tic beans.

Wisbech Port Health Authority cont'd

Principal Ports from which ships arrive:

London, Stettin, Immingham, Leningrad, Gdansk, Hull,
Hamina, Rotterdam, Wismar, Kotka, Eire, Channel Isles,
Antwerp, Archangel, Hamburg, Mantyluoto and Mesane.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates
issued during the year from ships from Foreign Ports.

This is not directly applicable as the port is not an
"approved port" or a "designated approved port".

However, at the end of 1964, the approval of the Ministry
of Health was obtained to an arrangement whereby the Port Health
Inspectors of the Borough of Wisbech act as the agents of King's
Lynn Borough Council in the issue of deratting exemption certifi-
cates for the Port of Wisbech.

During the year, five deratting exemption certificates were
issued for ships from foreign ports.

Sanitation and Food Hygiene in the Port Area

Supervision was maintained over the water supplies to ships,
the import of foodstuffs and the sanitary accommodation provided
for port workers.

